WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   For association with a digital video recorder, a controller that multiplexes packetized elementary streams into a multiplexed program stream, said packetized elementary streams comprising PES packets of disparate size, said controller operable to (i) receive said PES packets into a memory buffer, (ii) reformat each of said received PES packets into at least one fixed-size program packet having a header and a payload, said header defining a payload content, and (iii) associate ones of said at least one fixed-size program packets into said multiplexed program stream.

2.   The controller as set forth in Claim 1 further operable to store said multiplexed program stream in a storage disk.

3.   The controller as set forth in Claim 2 wherein the fixed size of said at least one fixed-size program packets is a multiple of a sector size of said storage disk.

4.   The controller as set forth in Claim 1 wherein each said header defines at least one of stream type, timing information and picture information.

1   5.   The controller as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said

2   header of each one of said at least one fixed-size program packet

3   has a fixed size.

1   6.   A digital video recorder capable of playing back a

2   recorded program stream, said digital video recorder comprising:

3   a video processor capable of receiving an incoming

4   program stream and converting said incoming program stream to a

5   baseband signal capable of being displayed on a television

6   associated with said digital video recorder;

7   a storage disk; and

8   a controller that multiplexes packetized elementary

9   streams into a multiplexed program stream, said packetized

10   elementary streams comprising PES packets of disparate size, said

11   controller operable to (i) receive said PES packets into a memory

12   buffer, (ii) reformat each of said received PES packets into at

13   least one fixed-size program packet having a header and a payload,

14   and (iii) associate and store ones of said at least one fixed-size

15   program packets into said multiplexed program stream in said

16   storage disk.

1   7.   The controller as set forth in Claim 6 wherein the fixed

2   size of said at least one fixed-size program packets is a multiple

3   of a sector size of said storage disk.

1   8.   The controller as set forth in Claim 6 wherein each said

2   header defines a payload content of each said at least one fixed-

3   size program packet.

1   9.   The controller as set forth in Claim 6 wherein each said

2   header defines at least one of stream type, timing information and

3   picture information.

1   10.   The controller as set forth in Claim 6 wherein said

2   header of each one of said at least one fixed-size program packet

3   has a fixed size.

1   11. A method of multiplexing packetized elementary streams

2   into a multiplexed program stream for recording in a digital video

3   recorder having a storage disk, said packetized elementary streams

4   comprising PES packets of disparate size, said method comprising

5   the steps of:

6   receiving said PES packets into a memory buffer;

7   reformatting each of said received PES packets into at

8   least one fixed-size program packet having a header and a payload;

9   and

10   recording associated ones of said at least one fixed-size

11 program packets as said multiplexed program stream in said storage

12 disk.

1   12. The method as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising

2   the step of playing back said recorded program stream.

1   13.   The method as set forth in Claim 12 wherein said digital

2   video recorder comprises a video processor, said method further

3   comprising the steps of:

4   receiving said played-back program stream; and

5   converting said received program stream to a baseband

6   signal capable of being displayed on a television associated with

7   said digital video recorder.

1   14.   The method as set forth in Claim 11 wherein the fixed

2   size of said at least one fixed-size program packets is a multiple

3   of a sector size of said storage disk.

1   15.   The method as set forth in Claim 11 wherein each said

1   header defines a payload content of each said at least one fixed-

2   size program packet.

1   16.   The method as set forth in Claim 11 wherein each said

2   header defines at least one of stream type, timing information and

3   picture information.

1   17.   The method as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said header

2 of each one of said at least one fixed-size program packet has a

3 fixed size.

1   18.   A multiplexed program stream recorded to a storage disk

2   associated with a digital video recorder, said multiplexed program

3   stream comprising a plurality of fixed-size program packets, ones

4   of said plurality of fixed-size program packets comprising

5   reformatted ones of a plurality of PES packets of disparate size,

6   each of said plurality of PES packets associated with a packetized

7   elementary stream received at said digital video recorder.

1   19.   The multiplexed program stream as set forth in Claim 18

2   wherein each of said plurality of fixed-size program packets

3   comprises a header and a payload, each said header defines at least

4   one of stream type, timing information and picture information.

1   20.   The multiplexed program stream as set forth in Claim 18

2   wherein each of said plurality of fixed-size program packets

3   comprises a header and a payload, each said header having a fixed

4   size.